

Welcome to Pastoral Associate Liz Junod!



The Rev. Elizabeth Junod joined West Side in September as a part-time Pastoral Associate. She is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. Most recently she worked at the Scarsdale Congregational Church, where she served as Associate Pastor and then Minister of Christian Education. She is married to Laurent Junod and since 2007 has been home in Allendale raising their three children, ages 3, 7, and 9.

Liz has a bachelors degree from Drew University, with a major in religion and minor in psychology, and received her Master of Divinity from Yale University Divinity School in May of 1989, where she was awarded the William E. Downes Prize for excellence in preaching and public speaking.

Of her time at Scarsdale Congregational Church, she has written: “In addition to giving me a breadth and wealth of pastoral experience, my time at SCC also solidified my belief that a community of faith functions like a family. With all the inherent challenges, frustrations, joys, and love that family can bring, the church community stands as a reminder to persons of all ages that Almighty God parents us all. By nurturing this relationship together throughout the lifecycle, the church strives to be a community that truly *becomes* the Gospel.”

Liz sees her biggest opportunity at West Side as supporting the deacons and empowering the laity in general. “I will be supporting Kent and Gareth and be an extra set of eyes and ears to help out,” she says. “The deacons have done a remarkable job, particularly since Beverly left, I hope to support them so they can continue living into their role as ministers of the church.”

Having attended since last Christmas Eve, her family has settled into the congregation as well. Her husband Laurent was raised in Switzerland in the Swiss Reformed Church and said after coming to West Side, “This reminds me of home!” Daughter Lilly has joined the choir, and all three children attend the Sunday school programs.

West Side extends a warm and heartfelt welcome to Liz and the entire Junod family.